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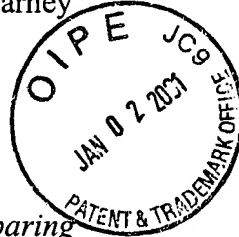
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In re Application of: Peter D. Harney )

Serial No.: 09/220,398 )

Filed: December, 24 1998 )

For: *Methods and Kits for Preparing* )  
*Multicomponent Nucleic Acid Constructs* )



Group Art Unit: 1656

Examiner: Jezia Riley

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Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
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Sir:

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Applicants respectfully request entry of this preliminary amendment before examination of the claims on the merits.

Kindly amend the claims as follows:

1. (**Amended**) A method of linking nucleic acid components in a predetermined order to produce a nucleic acid multicomponent construct, comprising[:]

(a) providing at least two nucleic acid components, each comprising at least one genetic element providing a functionality and at least one single stranded 5' or 3' terminal sequence, the terminal sequence having sufficient complementarity to either a terminal sequence in another of said at least two nucleic acid components or to an adaptor molecule that is supplied in addition to the at least two nucleic acid components and which adaptor molecule is further complementary to another of said at least two nucleic acid components so as to allow for specific annealing and

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